GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO INTERVIEWERS

1. Read questionnaire and instructions thoroughly before beginning your first interview. Repeated readings would be a good idea.

2. In any group, you will quickly find which persons are "good informants" and which are "bad informants." It is obviously easier and more fun to interview a "good informant." The purpose of the present survey, however, is to devise a questionnaire which gets the maximum amount of information from the maximum number of people -- in other words, one which is useful in talking with "bad informants" as well as "good." Therefore, make a point of trying the questionnaire out on those who hang back on the fringes of the group -- the shy, the surly, and the suspicious -- as well as those who crowd around you and answer every question volubly and pleasantly.

3. Emphasize that this is to be anonymous. (Unless informant chooses otherwise)

4. You may repeat a question as many times as your informant wishes.

4a. You are not bound by the original wording of any question. However, in each case, begin with the closest possible approximation of the question in Spanish. If your respondent does not understand the question, make a note of this fact, and make a note of the way in which you had to reword the question before your informant understood it clearly.

5. When a question arouses a definite emotional response, indicate this in your informant with an appropriate term such as "irritated," "amused," "bitter," "bored," etc.

6. At the time of the actual interview, do not attempt to record verbatim answers. Note only key words, phrases, ideas, and figures. As soon as possible after the interview, find a quiet place, and transcribe answers as fully as you can remember them, including slang, metaphors, and other indications of the flavor of your informant's speech.

7. When insufficient space is provided on the face of the form, use the back, indicating the number of the question which is being continued. In the case of extremely extended statements, loose-leaf paper may be used, to be identified and attached to the form at an appropriate place.

8. At the end of the form, in the space for "reactions of interviewer," indicate (in addition to specific entries mentioned below in detailed instructions) your personal reaction to the informant (e.g., "intelligent," "insincere," "nice guy," etc.) and what you think was his reaction to you. Also enter here comments on any aspect of the interview situation which you feel might have influenced the interview. (E.g., "room was very noisy," "camp manager interrupted in the middle," "informant had a hangover," etc.)

9. Make notes on any and all ways in which you feel the questionnaire could be improved.

10. Purpose of study: to improve conditions by learning first, what they are. Some emphasis on health!

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO INTERVIEWERS

Question number

1. Get month andyear of birth, if possible. If not, age to nearest year.

2. If informant does not live in a community, get name of nearest village or town. Street address not necessary.

3. What is desired here is the length of time informant has looked upon this place as his permanent address, regardless of whether or not he has actually lived there during all this time.

4.

5-8. Desired here is not only the informant's job-title, but the industry (when necessary to explain nature of work). Examples: "laborer, silver mine"; "laborer, maguey plantation."

9. Try to find out how many months these school years lasted, and ~~xxxxxxx~~ whether the schooling was full-time, half-time, quarter-time, etc.

14. If remarried, get complete marriage history.

17. It may be necessary to distinguish betweenthe number who live in the informant's household when he is home, and the number who are living there while he is in the U.S.

18. Include here those who work in the fields, etc., and may be padd in kind rather thanin cash.

24e. Alambrista: "linejumper". Polite name for "wetback."

25-31. What we are trying to get at here is"Why did the informant come to the U.S.?" Is he looking for the Golden Mountain solely? Is he seeking new experience and adventure? Is he escaping from a sharp-tongued wife and housefull of noisy kids? Such questions had better not be asked directly; we are trying to get the information inferentially.

41. La mordida. Include in answer where in the process "the bite" occurred. E.g., in the informant's own village, ~~xxxxx~~ en route to the Migratory Station, at the Migratory Station, etc. When we ask "to whom," we don't want the name of the individual collecting the bribe, but his position, or relation to those with official position.

51. Again, what is wanted is summary description of job, as well as "industrial classification." E.g., "loading and hauling, lemons;" "picking, Valencias"; "irrigating, strawberries."

53. By "laid off" is meant "not working." Included: sickness; wet weather; fruit slow in maturing; etc.

55. "Training" may have been formal; more likely, informal. What is desired is the length of time that went by before the informant felt he had reached his maximum proficiency at the job.

63. Another way of getting this, and perhaps a better way, is to ask how many checks the informant has received under his present contract, and the average amount of each.

65. If respondent does not volunteer this information, make it a special point to ask if he sent any ofthe money home to Mexico. If so, find out the mechanics of how he sent it -- and to whom.

66. I.e., does informant consider prices too high in this country? Does he believe the goods are superior in workmanship to those of Mexico? Inferior? Etc.

72. Informant may feel that he needs to know more about the conditions before he can answer this question. You might explain that there actually is such a union in this country, and that a number of American farm workers belong to it. Informant may be doubtful that he is allowed to join a union under his contract. If so, make a note of it.

74. Examples of correct entries:

Oatmeal mush, with sugar and milk	One large bowlful	I only choke this stuff down because there's nothing else
Tortillas (flour)	Four	I prefer corn
Macaroni and cheese	3 helpings	Love it

81. Examples: candy bars bought at the camp commissary; milk bought at the nearest grocery store; Mexican meals bought on weekends in town. Liquor may be entered here, although there are other places in the questionnaire it may be picked up.

86. Include ventilation: doors, windows, screens, etc.

87. Bedding: quality of springs, mattress, mattress cover (if any), sheets (if any), blankets, pillow, pillow case (if any).

97-98. Note the distinction between what informant would like to do, and what he does. Some prompting may be in order here, if his responses are sparse. E.g., Mexican movies, listening to the radio, reading magazines and newspapers, watching television, smoking, drinking, gambling, etc, etc.

101. This covers a multitude of sins and non-sins. A good deal of extremely tactful digging may be required. May be best to divide into two parts: contacts with respectable women, and others.

115-117. Mexican-Americans, as well as 1st generation, are included here.

124-125. By "what was it like?" is meant whatever informant remembers about it -- how long it took, who administered it, the various steps which were involved, etc. If informant remembers nothing about physical exams -- this is a valuable datum.

126. E.g., did informant feel uncomfortable being naked in front of a lot of strangers? Did he resent having a blood sample taken, for fear this would lessen his manliness? Etc.

130. We want to find out here if the informant understands the mechanics of his off-the-job health insurance. Nothing more philosophical is intended, although if this is offered -- e.g., in terms of parallels to a mutual benefit society -- this is well and good and should be entered.

135-136. Limit to 3 sickness experiences, unless informant obviously wants to talk.

135f, 136b. If possible, try to find out something about the extent to which financial considerations affect the choice of treatment.

141. It may be well to ask follow-up questions to get an idea of the informant's religiosity. Maybe there was no church in his village! If informant seems apologetic about not taking a more active part in orthodox church activities, this is very important. Note it.

158-175. These, and several other questions scattered throughout the questionnaire, ask for theinformant's knowledge of certain facts, which in many cases he probably won't know. If there is the slightest doubt in your minds as to how he is taking it, reassure him on this point: the purpose of these questions is not to test his memory, or anything of the sort, but to test the orientation machinery which is provided in the program. If he doesnot know a given answer, or gives an incorrect answer, it is no reflection on him, God knows, but on the men who are administering the system.

181. What is meant here is whether or not theinformant will return to the home he left when he came to the U.S. If he lived 4 miles outside of the town of X, and plans to return to live in X, this is not the same thing, and the difference should be noted.

194. Or for any other reason. By "reaction" is meant not only emotional reaction, but actual behavior, such as hurrying back to volunteer for military service, etc.

195. It may be necessary to define "discriminated against" operationally in order to plumb the depths here as they should be plumbed.

213-216. We are talking here about fondest dreams, not about mundane plans.

218. These questions may have to do with the questionnaire itself, and the research project of which it is a part; they may have to do with the operation of the bracero program; they may have to do with finances, romances, life itself. All should be answered to the best of your ability. If you cannot answer, you may be able to put the informant in touch with someone who can. It might not be a bad idea to conclude the interview by asking your informant, "Is there any way I can be of help to you, in return for your kindness to me?"

219. In addition to general comments, such as those noted in general instructions, enter here the following impressions:

(a) What you believe to be the approximate social class, status, or position of the informant within the frame of reference of Mexico. At one extreme of the scale would be the barefoot Indian, who does not even speak Spanish. At the other end would be the criollo who has wealth, power, prestige, etc. It is doubtful that our sample will include any of either extreme type. It is a question of where, in betwee n, the informant may best be placed.

(b) What is the informant's "racial type?" (Note: we want this not because of what it could tell us about what sort of person he is, but because of what it might tellus about the way he has been treated by others.) Again, the extremes would be improbable: "pure-blooded Indian type," "pure-blooded Spanish type." It is a matter of making an estimate of where the relative amounts of the two types of ancestry.

INSTRUCTIONS

(Please read carefully before administering first interview)

I. General Instructions

1. You will probably be asked to explain the purpose of the interview. The following explanation should suffice: "Some students at the University of California are interested in learning about the bracero program, and I am helping them." If asked, make it clear that the study has no connection with the Association or camp management, or Mexican or U.S. governments, and that there are no plans that this will be published. Experience has shown it is a good idea not to emphasize the fact that the questionnaire deals largely with health and medical care; this may "scare off " many potential informants, who feel these are esoteric subjects about which they cannot give intelligent answers.
2. By all means, avoid any impression that this is a test of knowledge or intelligence. It is not a test at all. It is a survey of opinions, essentially, and everybody is able to answer these questions equally well.
3. Emphasize that the procedure is entirely anonymous if the informant wishes it to be so. If he wishes to give his name, and address in Mexico, he may do so. (This is helpful to the survey, since it enables us to re-interview the men who have completed their contracts and returned home.)
4. You may repeat a question as many times as your informant wishes.
5. Begin by adhering exactly to the questionnaire's wording. If the informant does not understand a question, you may reword it, indicating on the form the wording you employed.
6. If space on the face of the form proves insufficient, use the back, indicating the number of the question which is being continued. In the case of extremely extended statements, loose-leaf paper may be used, to be firmly attached to the basic form, and properly identified.
7. It is generally preferable to conduct interviews in private. If this is not feasible, and spectators crowd around, offering comments, etc., go ahead with the interview, but make careful notes of the audience's role in the proceedings.
8. It is not a good idea to conduct interviews in the administrative offices of a camp, as this is apt to convey the impression that the study is sponsored by the camp management.
9. Strive for diversity in your informants -- e.g., in terms of age, region of Mexico, length of time in the U.S., etc.
10. Do not attempt to record verbatim answers during the interview. Note only key words, phrases, ideas, and statistics. As soon as possible after concluding the interview, expand the answers until they are self-sufficient. Include, if you can, metaphors, idioms, and other indications of the flavor of your informant's speech. You may enter answers either in Spanish or English--whichever is easiest for you. It is usually a good idea to include at least a few of the informant's pithy and "untranslatable" statements just as he expressed them.
11. If an informant wishes to examine a form, he may do so either before or after the interview. Do not, however, leave any forms in the camp. It is also a pretty good idea not to let your informant have a form before him during the interview, as this is apt to be distracting.
12. When a question arouses a definite emotional response in your informant, indicate this in parentheses beside the answer. Such terms as "amused," "emphatic," "angry", "bored", may be appropriate.

II. Specific Instructions

Question number

1. A rough idea of the number of individual inhabitants is desired. Some informants are able to answer only in terms of number of families, which is acceptable.
2. A fairly specific answer is desired here. "Day laborer", for example, doesn't tell us much. Day laborer in a maguey field, or a zinc mine, is better.
5. If the answer includes persons other than the conjugal family (wife and children), indicate not only number, but relationship to informant. E.g., "parents", "2 brothers, 1 sister".
6. b. How much time on each separate occasion?
   c. State and region is sufficient -- e.g., Southern California. If names of nearest towns are known, well and good.
   d. Sample entries: "hoeing cotton", "picking tomatoes", "irrigating".
7. To the nearest week for those who have been here a month or less; otherwise, to the nearest half month.
9-12. When feasible, some precision is desired here. E.g., what kind of meat, what kind of sopa, etc. Sample entries: "wheat tortillas -- 6"; "bean tacos -- 4"; "milk -- 1 pint"; "lamb stew -- 1 serving". Include only foods the informant actually ate, as distinguished from those he may have been served.
11. If the interview is conducted after dinner, this question applies to the meal of that evening. If the interview is conducted in the afternoon or early evening, before dinner, it applies to the meal of the previous evening.
12. All sorts of snacks, with the exception of chewing gum, are to be entered here -- candy bars, Coca Cola's, etc. By "when eaten" is meant such things as "middle of the morning", "late afternoon", "just before going to bed", etc.
18-19. Note the distinction between the ability to talk to patients, and the ability to understand them.
21. a. A name alone is sufficient, if this makes the nature of the illness clear. E.g., "dysentery", or "cold in the head". In many cases, however, it will be necessary to enter symptoms here in order to convey the idea of what was wrong.
   b. Examples of other types of persons who may have given treatment: nurses, mayordomos, chiropractors, compañeros.
22-24. Exact dates are not required here. "1951", or "3 years ago", is sufficient.
23. If necessary, define "vaccinated" as "being given injections to prevent you from getting a disease".
31-33. As in the case of question #30, what are actually wanted here are answers in terms of the beliefs of the region from which the informant comes. This point is to be made very explicit in the event that the informant begs off on the grounds that he doesn't believe in these things. In other cases the informant may not have any idea what some of the terms mean. In these cases, to avoid embarrassing the informant, it might be a good idea to say that in some parts of Mexico these terms probably aren't used at all.
34. Indicate "1" for most important, and so forth, to "5" for least important.
35. We want an explanation for every answer to this question, whether "yes" or "no."
37. Indicate "1" for most important, and so forth, to "6" for least important.
38-39. If the informant is unusually hesitant about discussing his financial situation, don't press the matter. If these questions are presented in a matter-of-fact way, though, they should give relatively little trouble.
38-b. Sample entries: "being put in the bank"; "being used to put my brothers through school."

Section entitled "Para el us del investigador"

3. Characteristics of the informant might include such things as shyness, belligerency, suspicion, or a devil-may-care attitude. Besides these, social characteristics

may be entered here -- e.g., "this man seems to be a full-blooded Indian who has had few contacts outside his own people."

4. Your personal feeling about the informant as an individual. E.g., did you think him a nice fellow? were you irritated by some of his mannerisms? what mannerisms?

5. To the best of your ability to put yourself into the shoes of the informant, how do you think he felt about the interview situation -- and about you as a person?

6. The barracks number is useful in case we want to get in touch with this man again to clear up some point. Small camps, of course, have no barracks numbers.

7. Name and address are entirely optional.

8. Here is the place to enter anecdotes which your informant may have related, tangential to the questions actually included in the questionnaire, and yet, in your judgment, worth preserving. Here is the place to note anything that may have happened during the course of the interview which might have affected its outcome -- e.g., "half-way through, the informant's buddy came in, and the informant began turning to him for advice on how to answer the questions." Here is also the place to make suggestions as to how any part of the questionnaire or the survey procedure could be improved.